



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

NO. 96-10

THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1996,  
IN CONFERENCE ROOM #230 AT THE NEW CARROLLTON MUNICIPAL CENTER.

Topics of Discussion

- \* 1. Request For An Additional Extension Of 30 Days To Store An Unregistered Vehicle By Mr. Robert Trapp, 6412 Fairbanks St.
- \* 2. Additional Discussion On Proposed Draft Recycling Specifications For A City Recycling Program With A Private Vendor.
- \* 3. Wednesday, April 17, 1996, Meeting Guests - (1) Dr. Sidney Cohen, New Carrollton Veterinary Hospital, Receives A Proclamation Recognizing 20 Years of Service and (2) Ms. Nora O'Neill, National Children's Center.
- 4. Review and Discussion On The 1997 Proposed City Budget.
- \* 5. Review Of Council Meeting Minutes:
  - March 4, 1996 (Workshop)
  - March 18, 1996 (Workshop)
  - April 4, 1996 Special City Council Workshop
  - April 4, 1996 Special City Council Meeting
- 6. Review Of List Of Bills
- 7. Report Of The Mayor and Council
- 8. Adjournment

LEP:ec

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON  
APRIL 15, 1996

The regularly scheduled Council Workshop meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by John A. Schaffer, Chairman of the Council. Present were Mayor Andrew C. Hanko; Council Members Raymond J. Garvey, Rose Marie Hurdle, Stephen L. Keleti and Sarah C. Potter; Administrative Officer Lawrence E. Pierce; Assistant Administrative Officer Carol A. Vitale and Public Works Director Richard L. Robbins.

Chairman Schaffer initiated the meeting by referring to a letter which he had previously handed out to the City Council dated April 10, 1996, regarding Mr. Barbee's Sovereignty Proposal as previously discussed. A Mr. Bohnsact from Illinois is scheduled to be in Washington in the near future and desires to speak with the Council and hopefully obtain their endorsement of this matter.

Brief discussion followed whereas the Council unanimously stated they did not desire to meet with this gentleman since the matter has been sent to the Maryland Municipal League for review and possible use by communities state-wide. Any discussion prior to their findings would be premature.

Chairman Schaffer stated he has invited Lt. Ed Loures, Commander of the College Park State Police Barracks to the next Workshop in order to discuss further the proposed use of State Troopers in New Carrollton. He stated several issues relating to costs and services remained unanswered and he desired to have these matters resolved and felt he was the one person who could address any and all remaining concerns.

Topics of Discussion

1. Request For An Additional Extension Of 30 Days To Store An Unregistered Vehicle By Mr. Robert Trapp, 6412 Fairbanks St.

A brief discussion followed on the additional extension, none of the Council Members had any objection and the item was placed on the Wednesday night Agenda for approval.

2. Additional Discussion On Proposed Draft Recycling Specifications For A City Recycling Program With a Private Vendor

The City Administrative Officer reported that the City receives \$5.00 per ton for mixed paper. He stated that when the City leaves the County Recycling Program, the residents will keep the yellow buckets presently used for recycling.

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A discussion followed on whether the City should recycle on their own or together with another municipality such as Greenbelt. Council Members were of the opinion that the City should leave the County Recycling Program and go out on their own in order to keep the same method to which the residents have become accustomed.

The Public Works Director reported that right now the City is recycling approximately 14,380 pounds per month of mixed paper. The participation rate is about 50% of the residents. Between the mixed paper and the newspapers which are being recycled, the City is saving approximately \$20,000 per year, which normally would have been paid via landfill fees. The Public Works employees conducted a one-time survey of the City households. The conclusion was that only 50% of houses are recycling. Discussion followed on whether this one-time survey is accurate enough to make a judgment on participation, on various ways of sorting mixed paper and newspaper and the various factors which need to be considered.

The Administrative Officer summarized the Council's desire to have the City bid out on its own and do it in two ways: (1) newspapers and commingled on the same truck and (2) newspapers, mixed paper and commingled separated on the same truck.

Chairman Schaffer stressed that the bid request has to be written in such a way which clearly states that there are three products which will be turned in to Georgetown, the commingled, the mixed paper and the newspaper. Councilman Garvey stated that the language on the bid requests needs to allow the vender to bid one way or the other. Some vendors do not have trucks which will permit them to sort in such a way but they should not be excluded from the bidding process.

3. Wednesday, April 17, 1996, Meeting Guests - (1) Dr. Stanley Cohen, New Carrollton Veterinary Hospital, Receives A Proclamation Recognizing 20 Years of Service and (2) Ms. Nora O'Neill, National Children's Center.

Chairman Schaffer asked staff to give some details about these two individuals who have been invited to Wednesday night's meeting. The Administrative Officer stated Dr. Cohen will be here to receive a proclamation in conjunction with the hospital's open house celebrating their 20-year service and Ms. O'Neill, Director of Development of the National Children's Center is coming as a result of

questions and suggestions by Claudia Jones, who is presently employed by the Center, that community outreach would be beneficial to the Center. New Carrollton is the first of a tour which they will be making throughout the municipalities to introduce themselves and make sure that if there are families or residents who might be able to take advantage of their services that they know about the organization.

The item was placed on the Agenda for Wednesday night.

4. Review and Discussion On The 1997 Proposed City Budget

Chairman Schaffer stated that at tonight's Workshop, the Mayor and staff go through the Budget and the Council can ask questions and discuss it but the Council's arguments and ideas will be presented at the next Workshop.

The Administrative Officer stated that there were several changes and corrections in the narrative section of the Budget. He proceeded to point out all the corrections. The Council Members also pointed out several corrections and suggestions. A discussion followed on various program classifications. Councilman Garvey would like to see a summary of the various program allocations. He and several other Council Members also would like to see a portion of Section 2 of the Budget Ordinance rewritten in easier to understand language.

Councilwoman Potter inquired why the second Code Enforcement position has been classified as part time. Mayor Hanco explained that this decision was made first due to the money shortage and secondly, because the City may be able to have Carla Keehn, the former Code Enforcement Office, come back on a part time basis.

Councilman Keleti stated that the biggest reason for the shortfall in revenues is the difference of almost \$200,000 in the Prior Year Receipts. Councilman Garvey asked whether the \$75,000 in the Prior Year Receipts for F.Y. 1997 came from the newly hired accountant and whether it would be possible to have the new accounting firm go through the City books and get a more accurate estimate of what the City can expect the Prior Year Receipts to be. Chairman Schaffer stated that he reviewed F.Y. 1996 Budget and found inconsistencies on last year's Prior Year Receipts. He found that they were amended several times. The Chairman continued to enumerate the various figures used on different reports for Prior Year Receipts. He suggested, therefore,

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that if the residents give their approval to borrow \$250,000, the City should wait until November before actually borrowing the money in case more money appears from the Prior Year Receipts. Mr. Pierce pointed out, however, that \$271,000 has already been encumbered and there will not be a cushion. Councilman Garvey stated that if the accounting firm of Bridgett, Mock and Associates does their job right, the City should have a more accurate figure available to make the judgment if they need to borrow the money. Mr. Robbins also pointed out that November would be too late in the season to work on the roads.

The City Administrator continued to discuss the decreasing amounts in the revenues due to the decreasing assessable base in the incorporated and unincorporated businesses. The most severe reduction is in the assessable base of personal property. Approximately one-third of personal property tax has been lost. The City has to become more and more dependent on the real property tax for its income. Mr. Pierce described the impact the closing of businesses and movie theaters at the Carrollton Mall will have on our revenues. He stated that the Admissions & Amusements tax revenue was for only half of the year as a result of the closing of the theaters. Discussion followed on whether the theaters would still stay open even though Best Products will close. Ms. Vitale stated that Carrollton Enterprises offered Best a reduced amount for rent or even no rent at all to stay until December but they declined stating that their sales had gone down drastically and they have lost money every month since December.

The City Administrator stated that there is a possibility of an additional \$20,740 coming from the State for Highway User Tax. Mr. Pierce reviewed each remaining line item in the Revenue Resources. The only other line item which may have an increase is the Building Operations which is the rental income from the County. At the request of the Council, the staff will request Ms. Mock to review the books and give a more accurate figure for Prior Year Receipts. The Recycling Fee is based on a \$19.00 assessment on each single-family home. The Rental Housing amount is based on 136 currently licensed rental houses.

Councilwoman Hurdle inquired whether the City can identify the number of HUD homes out of the 136 rental properties and whether the City has any control over the number of HUD homes in New Carrollton. Mr. Pierce explained the two types of HUD homes and over which the City has any control. He stated that the ownership turn over is as much as 20 houses per month.

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Councilman Keleti stated that the City's biggest concern and focus should be on economic development, redevelopment, and business revitalization from July 1 to restimulate the area. Mayor Hanko stated that with IRS coming to the area, everyone should be working together toward this goal of revitalization. He is very disappointed that Mr. Turner's group has not done anything.

The Administrative Officer reviewed the expenditures in the Budget. The full-time positions have been reduced by eliminating the accounting officer position.

Councilman Keleti stated that he has a series of questions relating to the City expenses which he is asking to have justified. One of the questions he has is on salaries of the staff and the Administrative Officer. The staff's increase is 3.6% whereas the Administrative Officer's is 8%. Councilman Keleti would like to know whether this is a salary or a bonus increase. The Mayor stated that both Mr. Pierce and Robbins are not merit employees. Mr. Robbins gave a brief description of the increases given to all employees. The 2% COLA is given to everyone, in addition there is a merit and longevity increase depending on the Grade and Step of the individual employee. Councilwoman Hurdle requested that the Council receive a copy of the Compensation Schedule.

The Administrative Officer continued to review each of the expenditure line items. Councilman Keleti asked that he be given more detailed explanations of several of the line items. He stated that he has a list of questions which he will give to the Administrator and to the other Council Members. Councilwoman Hurdle stated that she, too, has a list of questions. Chairman Schaffer suggested that Council Members exchange their lists of questions in order to eliminate duplications and speed up the process.

Public Works Director Robbins reviewed his department's budgeted expenses item by item. With reference to Building Operation and Maintenance, he stated that during the 1996 budget preparation, the shop was not in full service and he, therefore, was not able to predict the expenses more accurately. They still do not have a whole year of full service for all the buildings and, as a result, the \$36,000 may be a little low. Councilman Keleti stated that he would like to see whatever details are available justifying the 12.5% increase.

Councilman Garvey questioned the Computer Supplies item and what it includes. A lengthy discussion followed on the

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breakdown Mr. Robbins distributed pertaining to the internet and various other line items. He stated that internet has much to offer but that he is not familiar with it yet and there is a great need to learn in order to understand what the capabilities are and how the City could benefit from the tools available through the internet. Councilwoman Hurdle stated she just attended an executive meeting of the MML Board of Directors at which the Director was given the authority to proceed to request a proposal from the firm which is dealing with various neighboring municipalities. The City could tie in through the internet with these municipalities if we had the software. She stated that we would be the first group of municipalities to connect on the internet in the State of Maryland. Mr. Robbins explained the line item dealing with the training program. He stated that the cost for continued education has gone up tremendously. Several of the Council requested a more detailed break down on how many employees have taken advantage of this program and how much was spent on each employee. The Council would like to see the benefit spread out more among the employees. Mr. Robbins continued to explain that the support for their computers is becoming more and more limited and some of their programs such as their payroll will have to be completely rewritten. Chairman Schaffer inquired whether the payroll company which is now used can also do the breakdown for Public Works. Mr. Robbins stated that the payroll company could not put in as much information as they do into their payroll. Councilman Garvey stated that the City bought the computer system to simplify and combine all the work done on the computer by everyone in the City government. It seems to him that we are getting farther and farther apart. Councilwoman Hurdle stated that the City is asking for a tax increase and at the same time spending more money on computers, etc. She feels that we need to put a hold on as much as possible.

Chairman Schaffer suggested that the reduction or elimination of various line items be held off until the next Workshop. Councilwoman Potter stated that through the use of the computers Mr. Robbins has been able to save the City a great deal of money. If the current technology is getting beyond his knowledge, then he needs to learn whatever is necessary to continue to save the City money. Mr. Robbins stated that he is President Elect of the Maryland Municipal League Public Works Association and they are setting up a state-wide supervisor training program. He will be addressing the Mayors at Ocean City to encourage them to have their public works facilities participate. This will be done in conjunction with T2 at the University of Maryland and IGS also at the University of Maryland. Mr. Robbins

discussed the remaining budget line items for various Departments at Public Works. He talked about the computer line item in greater detail stating the number and type of computers now in use and the various software and its application. Councilman Garvey stated that Mr. Robbins could have his Word Perfect for Windows upgraded for about \$69.00. Councilman Garvey inquired why it is necessary to have all of the computers with such high speed. Mr. Robbins explained the uses. Chairman Garvey requested that Mr. Robbins give the Council in layman terms a listing of the various jobs performed on the computers.

Mr. Robbins stated that the Salt Bin is almost empty and he is counting on a milder winter next year but he still wants to be prepared. Councilman Keleti asked what impact a reduction of one, two or three Sanitation Department employees would have on performing their work. A discussion followed on the impact. Mr. Robbins explained that with the data he now has available through the use of his computers, he can track the man hours each job takes and the cost involved.

Councilman Keleti inquired why the salary increase percentage is much higher for the Parks employees. Mr. Robbins explained that the Parks Department has the highest number of new employees who are in Steps A, B and C and received a raise every year. Most of them received 4% per year. Councilman Keleti is interested in seeing the resultant impact this Department would have if the force were reduced. Mr. Robbins made a correction on the Small Tools item.

5. Review of Council Meeting Minutes

**March 4, 1996** - Corrections to the Minutes were given to the acting recording secretary and the item was placed on the Wednesday Agenda for approval.

**March 18, 1996** - Corrections to the Minutes were given to the acting recording secretary and the item was placed on the Wednesday Agenda for approval.

**April 4, 1996 Special Workshop and Special Council Meeting** - These Minutes were placed on the Wednesday Agenda for approval.

6. Review Of List Of Bills

The List of Bills was reviewed and placed on the Wednesday Agenda for approval.



7. Report Of The Mayor and Council

**Mayor Hanko** reported the following items:

- .There will be a Public Hearing on Speed Humps which will be held on Thursday, April 18, 1996, at 7:00 P.M. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Municipal Center. The meeting will be taped and shown at a later date for those who are unable to attend.
- .There will be a Town Meeting on Thursday, May 2, 1996, at 7:00 P.M., at Carrollton Elementary School on all the questions on the ballot. A discussion followed on whether the various options for police coverage should also be discussed at the Town Meeting, the problem of exact figures still not being available for State Police coverage and that the residents should have an opportunity to have input on what type of coverage they want. Councilwoman Hurdle found it very frustrating that the City has not been able to get accurate information. Councilwoman Potter stated that it is the Mayor's obligation to negotiate the best possible contract for the City. The Mayor stated that he would like to have fact sheets to be included in the May Newsletter so that everyone will have an opportunity to see them.
- .There will be a meeting in Upper Marlboro tomorrow on the Tax Differential at 10:45 A.M. No public input will be allowed and he will try to attend. Councilwoman Hurdle stated that she has been asked to attend the meeting and will bring back information for distribution to the Mayor and Council.

**The Assistant Administrative Officer Vitale** reported the following items:

- .Ms. Vitale stated she is working on the Newsletter which due to election materials and the budget, will be 8 pages. The Council voiced no objection to the additional \$250 in postage.
- .With regard to the Carrollton Mall, their management is hiring a sole commercial real estate broker to work on the Mall's leasing. There is some concern by Carrollton Enterprises that the Target deal is not moving forward. Their goal is to obtain several short term leases in order to draw a large tenant. This approach will result in a delay in the proposed Mall renovation.

.Ms. Vitale has received a survey from IGS who completed a study on federal employee needs in conjunction with economic development in Indian Head. Also, the Neighborhood Design Center provides free designs for neighborhood site designs and building designs. They recently completed such a design for the City of Hyattsville along Route 1. She stated these types of services may be helpful in dealing with the IRS employees and the types of support businesses they utilize. This information may be helpful for Carrollton Enterprises.

.Regarding old City Hall, Ms. Vitale stated the Neighborhood Owners Center could do a design and site plan for a day care facility or for businesses.

Councilman Keleti stated this sounded like the beginning of a strategy for economic development needs for the City and he was pleased. Brief discussion followed on plans for a business Incubator in Prince George's County.

.Work continues on the Tot Lot and is scheduled to be completed in about two weeks. Ms. Vitale stated that in working with the County's Housing and Community Development, she has secured an additional \$15,000 in funding towards this project which will decrease the \$35,000 in funds the City appropriated when it awarded the contract.

**Councilwoman Hurdle** brought up the fact that the Mayor and Council need to take a City tour. She stated that she realizes that the Council Members are to fill out complaint forms and give them to the Code Enforcement Officer but she feels that a tour is also most helpful. There has been a great deal of concern about a particular property on Longfellow Street. Several long-time residents were very upset about the appearance of a particular house. Councilwoman Hurdle suggested that perhaps the Mayor could talk personally to this owner in order to influence him to be more cooperative. Mr. Pierce stated that the Code Enforcement Officer has already tried to do everything he could.

Councilwoman Hurdle asked Mr. Robbins whether the City is utilizing the concrete mixer which was purchased approximately a year ago to repair side walks. Mr. Robbins stated that it is being used but not for side walks at the present time. As soon as the asphalt work is done, the mixer will be used, probably mid summer. Councilwoman Hurdle inquired about the City employee who was taken to the hospital recently. Mr. Robbins stated that after being checked at the hospital, the employee was given some pain killers and was back to work the very same day.

Councilwoman Hurdle asked Mr. Pierce whether the Planning Board agenda item regarding Ardwick Ardmore Road was going to be a residential or commercial development. Mr. Pierce stated that these lots are zoned R-80 residential.

**Councilman Garvey** inquired about the sign at the Metro stating that there will be a public hearing. Does anyone know what the hearing is about and are we going to participate. Mr. Pierce explained that Mr. Berman is going through the process of replatting and approving the paper work for MetroView originally submitted to the Planning Board. No changes or additions are anticipated. However, Councilman Garvey feels that the City should be involved again in this process just to make certain that nothing new is added since the addition of IRS has changed the whole concept. A brief discussion followed on the need to see the plans before the public hearing so that there would be no surprises.

Councilman Garvey inquired whether anyone has recently contacted the owner of the Lanham Shopping Center regarding annexation. He stated that since the City is losing revenues, the only solution is to annex new commercial areas.

Councilman Garvey requested that the Code Enforcement Officer check on a truck with large lettering on it at a property on Lamont Place. Mr. Garvey inquired when the Council will receive copies of the new Code book. Mr. Pierce replied that the books are in and will be distributed soon.

Councilman Garvey stated that during the recent Neighborhood Watch meeting, a Central Holding facility was discussed. He would like to have as much information as possible before the City either supports or opposes it. Mayor Hanko stated that he will write a letter to Councilwoman MacKinnon requesting all the facts about this facility and bring it before the Council for review.

Councilman Garvey would like to have a wall map in this Council Conference Room.

**Councilwoman Potter** thanked Mr. Robbins for having the railing anchored by Carrollton Elementary and the Mayor for getting the dump truck removed from 87th Avenue.

Councilwoman Potter reported that on two occasions she has witnessed a State Trooper speeding over 50 mph on Westbrook Drive. She is especially concerned since he is a law enforcement officer breaking the law.

Councilwoman Potter stated that she has heard that in the suit on the tax differential, the number of plaintiffs has decreased. Is this correct? Councilwoman Hurdle stated that this is correct and that there has been a change of judges. A judge from Calvert County has been asked to preside in this case. There are three or four plaintiffs remaining.

Councilwoman Potter proudly reported that Tina Rosenberg, who was one of the actresses in the Prince George's Little Theatre production of the 1940 Radio Hour, had just won the Pulitzer Prize for her book The Haunted Land.

**Councilman Keleti** had no report.

**Chairman Schaffer** also had no report.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugenia V. Czumak  
Acting Recording Secretary

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NOTICE OF MEETING

NO. 96-09

THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET AT 8:00 PM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1996 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE NEW CARROLLTON MUNICIPAL CENTER.

AGENDA ITEMS

Advisory Referenda Questions

1. In light of tax revenue reductions, the City may not be able to provide current services without a tax rate increase in the future. Currently, the City has a tax cap in its Charter of \$1.00 per hundred dollars of assessed value. Do you support an increase in the tax cap, if necessary, from \$1.00 to \$1.25 in order to continue the present level of services?"

2. The winter of 1996 resulted in extensive damage to our City streets. Do you support a general debt obligation for street repairs in the amount of \$250,000 to augment our current roads program which could result in a maximum two cent tax rate increase in the City's tax rate?

3. Prince George's County has increased the cost to the City of New Carrollton to continue its three County Contract Police Officers nearly \$100,000 per annum effective July 1, 1996.

A. Do you support a 6 cent tax rate increase, if needed, at an average single family residence cost of \$31.20 annually to continue with three contract officers?

B. Do you support a 4 cent tax rate increase, if needed, at an average single family cost of \$20.80 annually to continue with only two contract officers?

C. If you do not support either A or B above, do you support eliminating contractual police services?

4. The Maryland State police have a contractual program with municipalities. Do you support a 3.5 cent tax rate increase for the fiscal year 1997 City budget to substitute three Maryland State Troopers for the existing County Officers, beginning approximately in early 1997. Choice of this alternative will necessitate no Contract Police Officers covering the City after July 1, 1996 until Maryland State Police Officers are available.



AGENDA OF MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON  
APRIL 4, 1996

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Additions to the Agenda by the Council

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item No. Council Action

0496-03 "In light of tax revenue reductions, the City may not be able to provide current services without a tax rate increase in the future. Currently, the City has a tax cap in its Charter of \$1.00 per hundred dollars of assessed value. Do you support an increase in the tax cap, if necessary, from \$1.00 to \$1.25 in order to continue the present level of services?" Approved

0496-04 "The winter of 1996 resulted in extensive damage to our City streets. Do you support a general debt obligation for street repairs in the amount of \$250,000 to augment our current roads program which could result in a maximum two cent tax rate increase in the City's tax rate?" Approved

0496-05 Prince George's County has increased the cost to the City of New Carrollton to continue its three County Contract Police Officers nearly \$100,000 per annum effective July 1, 1996.

A. "Do you support a 6 cent tax rate increase, if needed, at an average single family residence cost of \$31.20 annually to continue with three contract officers?"

B. "Do you support a 4 cent tax rate increase, if needed, at an average single family cost of \$20.80 annually to continue with only two contract officers?"

C. "If you do not support either A or B above, do you support eliminating contractual police services?"

Defeated

4.

NEW BUSINESS

Item No.

Council Action

0496-06    The Maryland State police have a contractual program with municipalities. Do you support a 3.5 cent tax rate increase, if needed, at an average single family residence cost of \$18.00 for a half year of service for the fiscal year 1997 City budget to substitute three Maryland State Troopers for the existing County Officers, beginning approximately in early 1997. Choice of this alternative will necessitate no Contract Police Officers covering the City after July 1, 1996 until Maryland State Police Officers are available?

Defeated

5.    Suspension of the rules in order to hear from citizens - 10-minute limit.

    A.    Audience Participation

    B.    Telephone Participation

6.    Adjournment

LEP:ec